provided by the Planning Commission.

**Theft of Railway Material**

4596. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of thefts on railways are on the increase;

(b) the total number of cases of thefts of railway materials and booked consignments during 1989-90 and 1990-91, zone-wise;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any comprehensive scheme to check such thefts; and

(d) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information is as under :—

| Railways | Years | Number of cases of thefts | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Booked Consignments | Railway Materials |
| Central | 1989-90 | 1242 | 3971 |
| | 1990-91 | 994 | 4002 |
| Eastern | 1989-90 | 7579 | 20332 |
| | 1990-91 | 6537 | 19077 |
| Northern | 1989-90 | 3460 | 37705 |
| | 1990-91 | 3059 | 38904 |
| North Eastern | 1989-90 | 1543 | 1361 |
| | 1990-91 | 1173 | 1439 |
| Northeast Frontier | 1989-90 | 2581 | 483 |
| | 1990-91 | 1572 | 472 |
| Southern | 1989-90 | 1567 | 5784 |
| | 1990-91 | 1535 | 5380 |
| South Central | 1989-90 | 174 | 1472 |
| | 1990-91 | 708 | 1256 |
| South Eastern | 1989-90 | 3844 | 5928 |
| | 1990-91 | 2963 | 6445 |
| Western | 1989-90 | 1783 | 3085 |
| | 1990-91 | 1647 | 3546 |

(c) and (d) Taking necessary steps to check thefts on the Railways in a continuous process.

**Equipments for Saving Fuel and Reduce Pollution**

4597. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the equipment that increases

the fuel efficiency of the motor vehicles and also reduces pollution:

(b) if so, the details of the equipment;

(c) whether the equipment has the required certificates from the concerned authorities: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government are not aware of any equipment with proven results which increases fuel-efficiency of the motor vehicles and also reduces pollution.

(c) and (d) Concernd equipment manufacturer may approach Petroleum Conservation Research Association for evaluation and certification on merits.

**Pondicherry to Bangalore Railway Line**

4598. SHRI P. P. KALIAPERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the Pondicherry-Bangalore broad-gauge line is being taken up for construction; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) A reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey has been taken up. Further action will depend on results of the survey and availability of resources.

*[Translation]*

**Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station**

4599. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an additional 500 MW unit at Vindhyachal thermal power station;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the quantum of power proposed to be supplied therefrom to Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Two units of 500 MW each are propoed to be added at Vidhyachal Super Thermal Power Station. The project has been recommended by the Public Investment Board in its meeting held in March, 1991. The project will be implemented with soviet assistance. A credit agreement has been signed by National Thermal Power Corporation with the Soviet side in November, 1988. Preliminary work at site is in progress. The project will require investment clearance by Government. The first 500 MW unit is scheduled for commissioning in five years from the date of signing of supply contract and the second unit one year thereafter.

(c) Allocation of power will be decided in due course.

**Restoration of Arrah-Sasaram (Martin) Railway Line**

4600. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: